

Public Notice



Applicant:
Six Flags Ohio

Date:
Published: Nov. 8, 2000
Expires: Dec. 8, 2000

**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers**

In Reply Refer To:

Buffalo District CELRB-CO-R RE: 1999-03114(0) Section: OH 404

**Application for Permit under Authority of
Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).**

Six Flags Ohio, c/o Mr. Jack Bateman (General Manager), 1060 North Aurora Road, Aurora, Ohio 44202, has applied for a Department of the Army permit to fill 16.43 acres of wetlands. The project purpose is to expand current parking facilities to allow for the anticipated increase in visitors due to amusement park expansion; update and relocate support facilities; and relocate Geauga Lake Road to facilitate visitor access to the park on approximately 50 acres of undeveloped adjacent land. The project is located on State Route 43 at the intersection of Geauga Lake Road, Bainbridge Township, Geauga County, and the City of Aurora, Portage County, Ohio.

A total of 25 acres of wetlands have been identified on the site. Wetlands within the lake were not included as part of this project. As mitigation for impacts to 16.43 acres of wetlands, the applicant proposes to construct 11 acres of wetlands on- and off-site as follows:

- a. off-site creation of 6 acres of wetland at Cleveland MetroPark's North Chagrin Reservation;
- b. on-site creation of 1.5 acres, expanding an adjacent wetland in old field habitat;
- c. on-site creation of 3.5 acres of vernal pool wetlands in forested upland buffer adjacent to a scrub-shrub/emergent wetland.

Beginning in 1982, several Department of the Army permits were authorized totalling 1.78 acres of permanent wetland loss for Geauga Lake Amusement Park while operated by Funtime, Incorporated. As mitigation for these impacts, Funtime was required to construct a one acre wetland to replace wetlands lost for the authorized parking amusement ride expansions. They were also required to construct wetland education kiosks at their Geauga Lake and Darien Lake (New York) amusement facilities for use by the public.

Thus, the net cumulative impacts associated with the previous Department of the Army authorizations plus the currently proposed project would total 18.21 acres of wetland fills. The net results of the mitigation would total 12 acres of on-site and off-site wetland creation.

Location and details of the above described work are shown on the attached maps and drawings.

Questions pertaining to the work described in this notice should be directed to Theresa B. Hudson, who can be contacted by calling (440) 437-5840, or by e-mail at: theresa.b.hudson@usace.army.mil

The following authorization(s) may be required for this project:

Water Quality Certification (or waiver thereof) from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

There are no registered historic properties or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places that will be affected by this project.

In addition, available evidence indicates that the proposed work will not affect a species proposed or designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as threatened or endangered, nor will it affect the critical habitat of any such species.

This notice is promulgated in accordance with Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, parts 320-330. Any interested party desiring to comment on the work described herein may do so by submitting their comments, in writing, so that they are received no later than 4:30 pm on the expiration date of this notice.

Comments should be sent to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Orwell Field Office, 33 Grand Valley Avenue, Orwell, Ohio 44076-9566, and should be marked to the attention of Theresa B. Hudson, or by e-mail at: theresa.b.hudson@usace.army.mil. A lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the work as proposed.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be fully considered during the public interest review for this permit application. All written comments will be made a part of the administrative record. Due to resource limitations, this office will normally not acknowledge the receipt of comments or respond to individual letters of comment.

Any individual may request a public hearing by submitting their written request, stating the specific reasons for holding a hearing, in the same manner and time period as other comments.

Public hearings for the purposes of the Corps permit program will be held when the District Commander determines he can obtain additional information, not available in written comments, that will aid him in the decision making process for this application. A Corps hearing is not a source of information for the general public, nor a forum for the resolution of issues or conflicting points of view (witnesses are not sworn and cross examination is prohibited). Hearings will not be held to obtain information on issues unrelated to the work requiring a permit, such as property ownership, neighbor disputes, or the behavior or actions of the public or applicant on upland property not regulated by the Department of the Army. Information obtained from a public hearing is given no greater weight than that obtained from written comments. Therefore, you should not fail to make timely written comments because a hearing might be held.

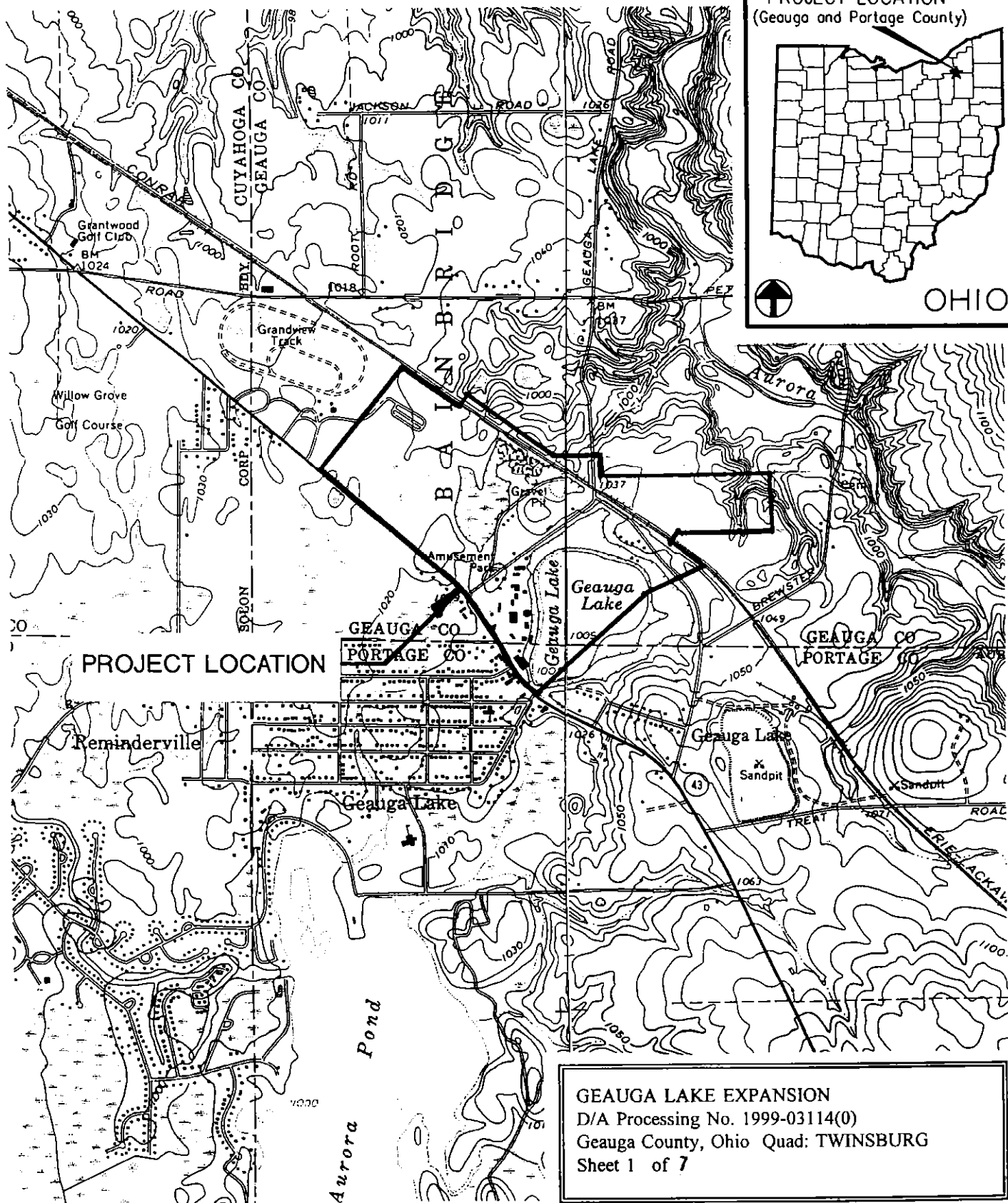
The decision to approve or deny this permit request will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit

for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

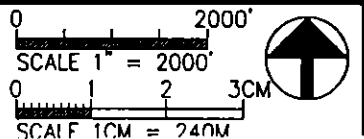
Alan R. Anschutz
for Paul G. Leuchner
Chief, Regulatory Branch

NOTICE TO POSTMASTER: It is requested that this notice be posted continuously and conspicuously for 30 days from the date of issuance.

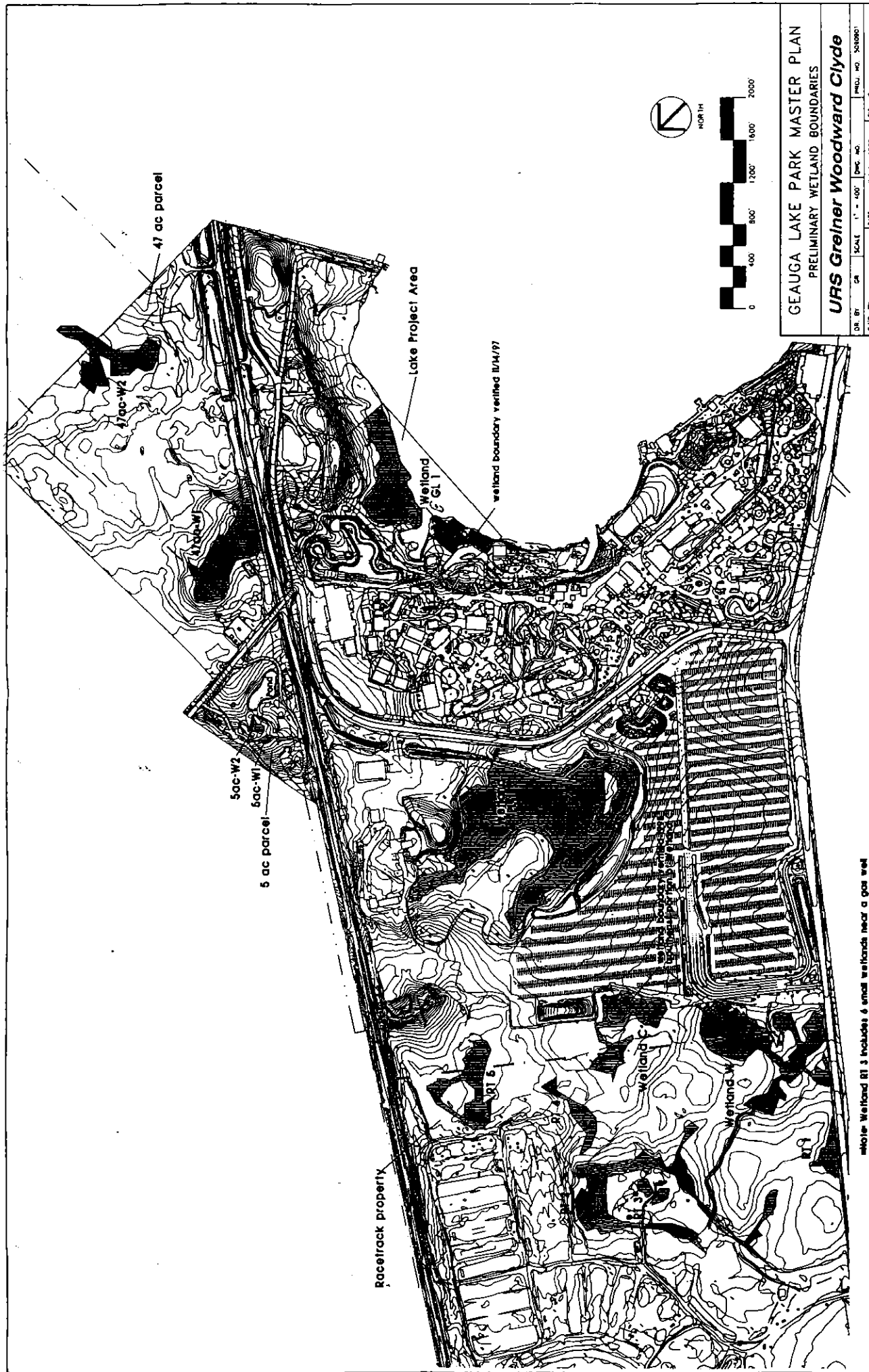


PROJECT LOCATION

GEAUGA LAKE EXPANSION
D/A Processing No. 1999-03114(0)
Gauga County, Ohio Quad: TWINSBURG
Sheet 1 of 7



GEAUGA LAKE
Figure 1
Project Location
Map



Note: Wetland B1 3 includes 6 small wetlands near a gas well

GEAUGA LAKE EXPANSION
D/A Processing No. 1999-03114(0)
Gauga County, Ohio Quad: TWINSBURG
Sheet 2 of 7

EAST 5 AC PARCEL-
MITIGATION AC
AREA B 1.5 AC

RELOC. WATER 4
3.5 AC



MAGNETIC



**FUTURE
COMMERCIAL
LEVEL ORBMENT**

OUTPARCE



RECEIVED

WETLANDS

SIX FLAGS OHIO

GEAUGA LAKE EXPANSION
D/A Processing No. 1999-03114(0)
Geauga County, Ohio Quad: TWINSBURG
Sheet 3 of 7



Table 2. Summary of Project Wetland Types, Area, Impacts and Fill Quantities by Alternative¹

| Wetland Identifier | Wetland Type ² | Acreage Total | Alternative 1 | | | Alternative 2 | | | Proposed Construction Phasing |
|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | Acreage Filled | Fill (Cu Yds) | Dredged (Cu Yds) | Acreage Filled | Fill (Cu Yds) | Dredged (Cu Yds) | |
| Wetland RT 1 | PSS | 0.34 | 0.05 | 323 | -- | 0.05 | 323 | -- | III (2003+) |
| Wetland RT 2 | PSS(PFO) | 2.53 | 2.53 | 16,327 | -- | 0.19 | 968 | -- | |
| Wetland RT 3 | PEM | 0.19 | 0.19 | 1226 | -- | -- | -- | -- | |
| Wetland RT 4 | PSS(PFO) | 0.47 | 0.47 | 2275 | -- | 0.47 | -- | -- | |
| Wetland RT 5 | PSS(PFO) | 1.13 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | II (2001-2002) |
| Wetland W | PFO/PSS | 2.77 | 2.77 | 17,876 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Wetland C | PEM/PSS | 1.35 | 1.35 | 8712 | -- | -- | -- | -- | II (2001-2002) |
| Wetland PL 1 | PSS/PEM | 8.60 | 8.60 | 221,995 | 166,496 | 1.35 | 8712 | -- | I (2000) |
| Wetland 5ac-W1 | PFO | 0.11 | 0.11 | -- | 710 | 0.11 | -- | 710 | II (2001-2002) |
| Wetland 5ac-W2 | PEM | 0.06 | 0.06 | -- | 387 | 0.06 | -- | 387 | |
| Wetland 47ac-W1 | PSS/PEM | 1.83 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | |
| Wetland 47ac-W2 | PFO | 1.37 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | |
| Wetland 47ac-W3 | PFO | 0.10 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Wetland GL | PSS/PEM | 4.15 | 0.1 ⁴ | -- | -- | 0.1 ⁴ | -- | -- | -- |
| TOTAL | | 25.00 | 16.23 | 268,734 | 167,593 | 10.93 | 231,998 | 167,593 | |

Fill quantities for Alternatives 1 and 2 are presented; Alternative 3, the Non-Degradation Alternative has no wetland impacts

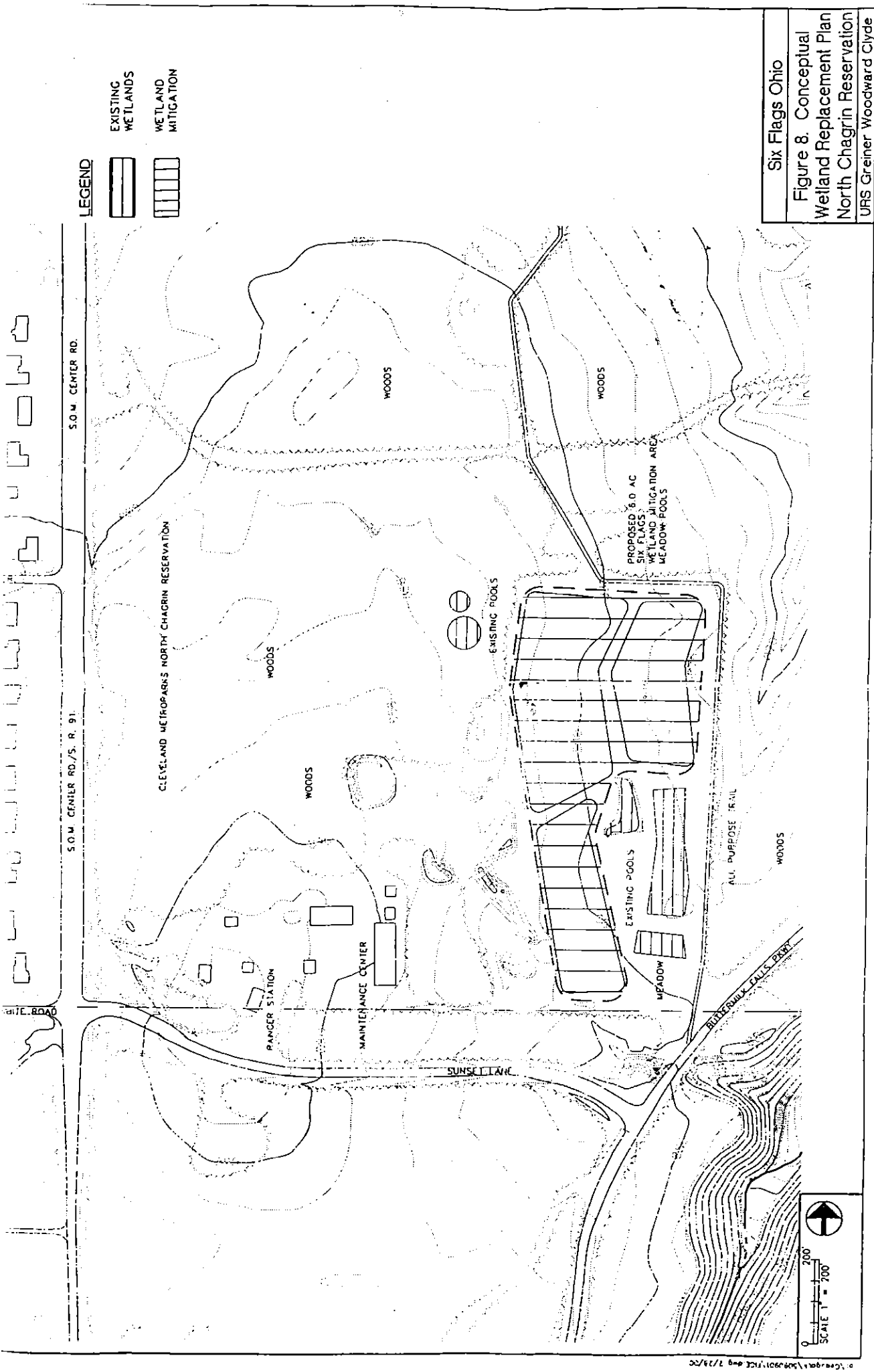
²Based on the Cowardin, et.al., (1979) classification system

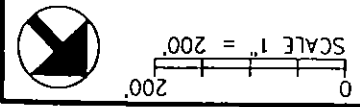
³Provisional ORAM Version 4.0 Categories and (Scores)

⁴small impact associated with Nationwide Permit 14 authorization last year

P:\GEAUGA\K\20090901\DOCS\WETIMPACT.doc

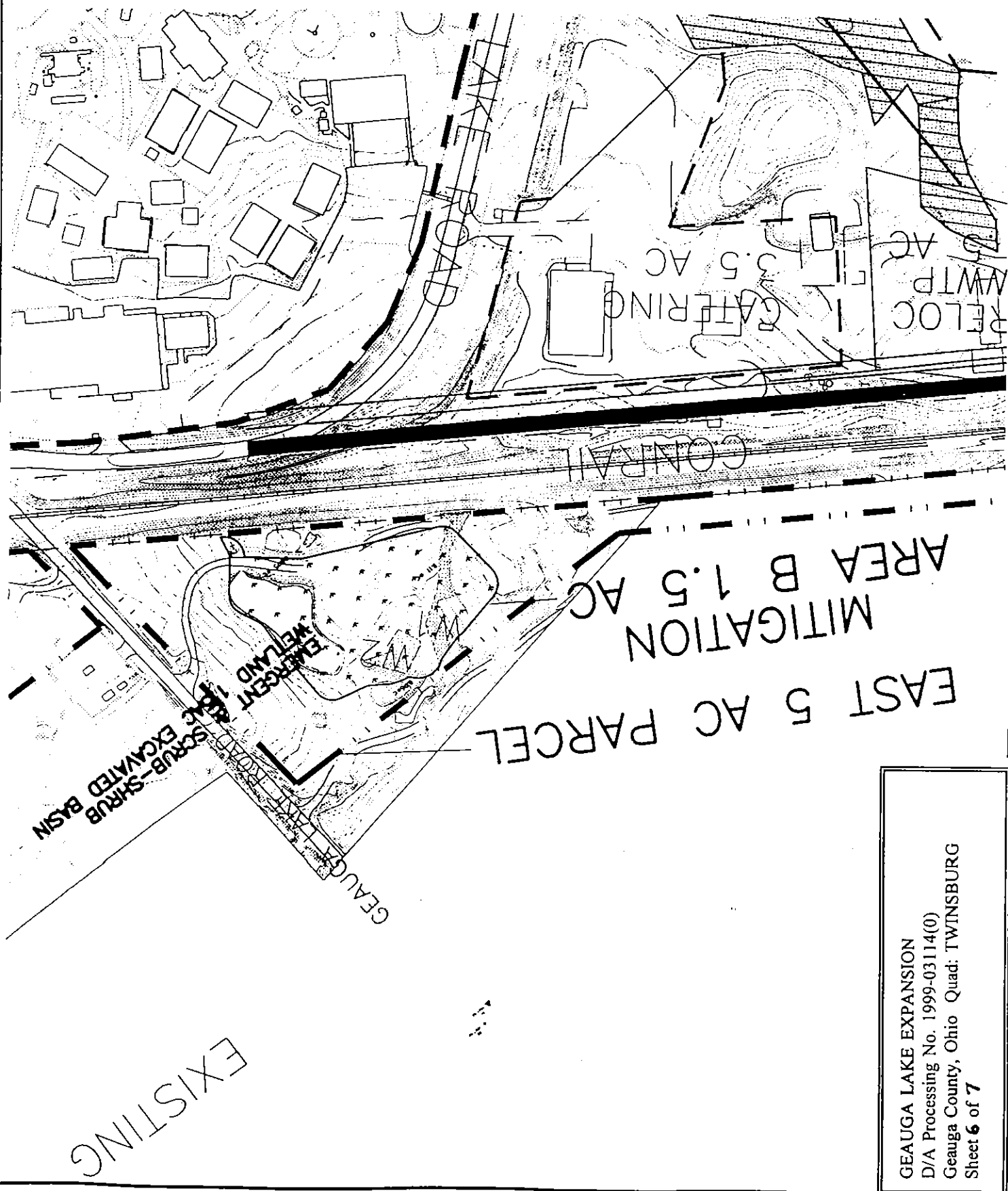
GEAUGA LAKE EXPANSION
D/A Processing No. 1999-03114(0)
Geauga County, Ohio Quad: TWINSBURG
Sheet 4 of 7



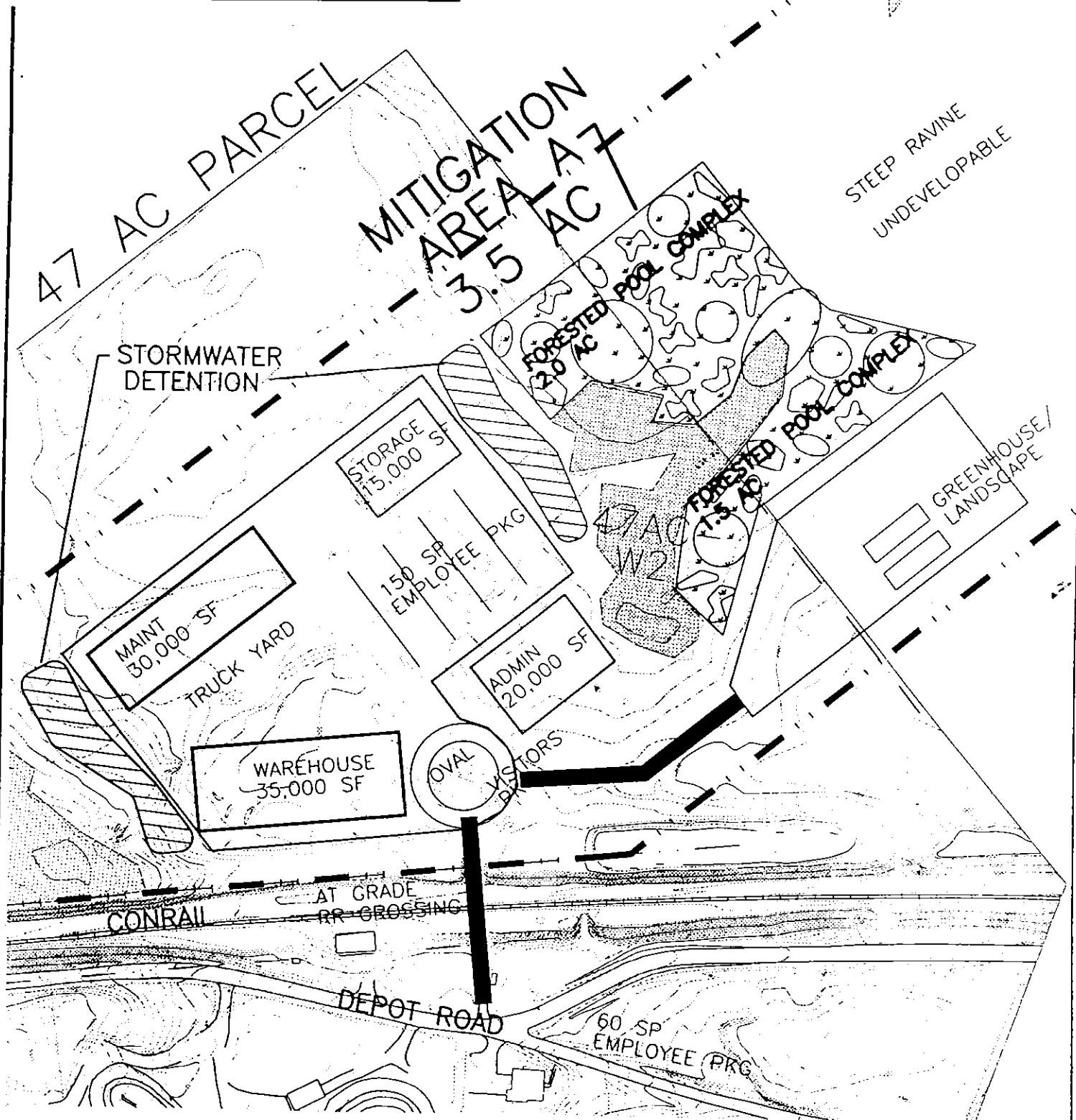


LEGEND:
EXISTING WETLANDS
PROPOSED WETLANDS



SIX FLAGS OHIO
Figure 11. Conceptual
Mitigation Plan -
AREA B



GEAUGA LAKE EXPANSION
D/A Processing No. 1999-03114(0)
Geauga County, Ohio Quad: TWINSBURG
Sheet 6 of 7



LEGEND:

-  EXISTING WETLANDS
-  PROPOSED WETLANDS

0 200'
SCALE 1" = 200'



GEAUGA LAKE

Figure 9. Conceptual
Mitigation Plan -
AREA A